

**LEAKY
SECURITY**

Pentagon intelligence officials are still unable to find the leak about the ill-fated operation to rescue American prisoners of war held in Sontay, but the finger of suspicion points toward the White House staff of Henry A. Kissinger, Nixon's top security staff.

Kissinger's constantly rotating 40-member staff of "specialists" is recruited from other Federal agencies, Ivy League colleges and from the Council on Foreign Relations. Many of the Kissinger staffers receive three to six months indoctrination and are then planted in strategic spots in highly sensitive Federal agencies. Thus Kissinger is building a bureaucratic empire of "loyalists" instantly responsive to his clandestine orders without going through normal official channels.

Due to the conspiratorial nature of the Kissinger network the Pentagon may never solve the mystery of who tipped off the Communists in advance about U.S. plans to try to rescue American prisoners of war. Significantly, the North Vietnamese warning broadcast was made shortly after Defense Secretary Melvin Laird authorized the establishment of a special prisoner rescue unit.

The POWs held in Sontay were evacuated from there about a week after the site was picked by Laird as the target for the first U.S. rescue attempt. The accurate enemy timing has convinced American intelligence officials that there had to be a leak in U.S. plans. Only the exact timing of the commando raid was not known by the North Vietnamese. This information probably did not leak out since the exact day and hour of the raid was not set until just before the rescue effort was launched. A North Vietnamese special defense unit that was located near Sontay attempted to reach the prison camp to trap the raiding party but was stopped by accurate U.S. fire. After the abortive raid, American military intelligence has ascertained that the American POWs at Sontay were removed to a prisoner-of-war camp inside Hanoi, which is the largest of six other camps known to be used to hold American POWs.

After the Sontay debacle, the White House made a preposterous effort to make it appear that the U.S. commando raid was "successful" on the rationale that it was accurately planned and executed.

The miracle is that the U.S. commando team got back alive. Intensive security measures were

taken by the White House to prevent a leak to the news media that there was a leak to the enemy about the Sontay raid. Syndicated columnist Paul Scott was the first to expose the Sontay leak. Scott secured tacit official confirmation from the Pentagon.

The Sontay commando raid breach of security is not the only leak of highly secret U.S. operational plans in the Nixon Administration. When the U.S. sent troops into North Vietnamese sanctuaries in Cambodia, Communist intelligence was tipped off three days before the offensive was launched. Captured North Vietnamese prisoners reported that Hanoi was warned of the U.S. attack. The advance information permitted the North Vietnamese commanders to withdraw most of their military forces beyond the 21-mile limit set by President Nixon as the deepest penetration area for U.S. forces.

NOTE: About half of Kissinger's staff members and Kissinger himself have received security waivers, i.e. many of the staffers are exempted from full-field investigation and security clearance for appointment to the White House top-most secret security staff. Furthermore, an inter-departmental security committee of representatives of the State Dept., National Security Agency, Central Intelligence Agency and Pentagon had advance information on the plans for the Sontay raid and the Cambodian invasion.